

REMARKS

Careful consideration has been given by the applicants to the Examiner's rejection of various of the claims, as set forth in the outstanding Office Action, and favorable reconsideration based on the present Amendment is earnestly solicited.

Concerning the foregoing, applicants gratefully note the Examiner's indication that at least Claims 4-16, 18 and 19 are directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if either rewritten in independent form or made dependent from an allowable claim.

Concerning the Examiner's claim objections with regard to minor points of terminology, appropriate amendments have been implemented to the respective claims, thereby rendering the formal grounds of rejection to be moot.

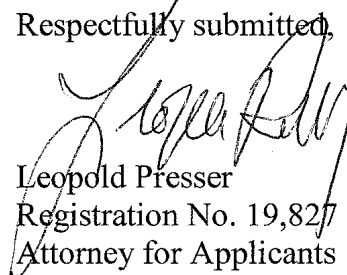
Applicants further note the Examiner's rejection of Claims 1-3 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Kleineisel, German Application No. DE 3935800, as detailed in the Office Action; and the rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 17 as being anticipated by Foster, U.S. Patent No. 4,896,585, as also detailed in the Office Action.

Accordingly, in order to place the application into order for allowance, applicants have amended the claims by incorporating the limitations of Claims 2 and 4 into Claim 1, by providing an independent claim considered to be of allowable scope by incorporating the limitations of allowable Claim 4 and intervening Claim 2.

With regard to the remaining claims, the appropriate dependencies have been amended, and moreover, in each of the claims, the formalities objected to by the Examiner in the Office Action have been corrected.

Accordingly, inasmuch as the present application is now deemed to be in order for allowance, the early issuance of the Notice of Allowance by the Examiner is earnestly solicited. However, in the event that the Examiner has any queries concerning the instantly submitted Amendment, applicants' attorney respectfully requests that he be accorded the courtesy of possibly a telephone conference to discuss any matters in need of attention.

Respectfully submitted,



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